STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ARA - Mr. Woodward

MID - Mr. Burrows

FROM : MID - Mr. Ohmans

DATE: June 3, 1954

SUBJECT: Cooperative Forum Meeting, June 2

At Mr. Burrows request, I attended the meeting of the Cooperative Forum, Wednesday June 2nd, third floor, 1110 F Street. Mr. Belton also attended the meeting. I understand the sponsor or leader of the group, a Mrs. Estes, was anxious for some representation from the State Department.

The speakers were Major Zepeda, Military Attache of the Honduran Embassy, and a Colonel William Roberts, a lawyer and reportedly legal counsel for Drew Pearson. The meeting apparently gave Mr. Roberts a forum for recounting his observations on a recent "tour" around Latin America. He thought he came back as an "expert".

Major Roberto Zepeda spoke specifically about political conditions in Honduras.

There were about fifty people in the audience which seemingly was of a high caliber. Among those present were Major General Webster of the Air Force, Allan Hayden of CIA, Mr. Bauckhage radio commentator, representatives from the CIO, Bookings Institute, and the Air Force.

Colonel Roberts, where Colonel comes from I don't know, spoke quite glibly and losely and critically about the State Department. Eventually the discussion turned towards the Guatemalan situation and Colonel Roberts, as well as a few others in the audience, could not see any Communist danger in Guatemala.

What impressed me about the meeting was this; here was a group of apparently responsible people discussing an inter-American problem and the point of view of the Department of State with respect to Guatemala had not gotten across to them at all. There seemed to be a lot of name calling at the meeting and everyone there who had some sort of a title was called upon to enter into the discussion. Despite the critical statements made about the State Department, it wasn't deemed advisable, nor the time propitious, for a general discussion of our policy with regard to Guatemala.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/DRC/MR After the DATE 3/9/82

After the meeting, I was invited to attend a small meeting of the speakers and Mrs. Estes, and had further opportunity to speak with Colonel Roberts. As you might have imagined, he had little to offer when I asked him what suggestions he had as to policies which the Department of State should follow with respect to Guatemala.

Sum total for the meeting - a lot of misunderstanding, or lack of understanding, about this Department's policy toward Guatemala.

ARA:MID:JLOhmans:atm